

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

By way of this amendment and reply to the Office Action mailed May 7, 2003, claims 13, 14 and 20 have been cancelled, claims 1, 8, 15-18, 21-24, 26 and 27 have been amended, and new claims 34-38 have been added. Claims 1-12, 15-19 and 21-38 are presently pending for consideration on the merits.

Applicant appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter made in the Office Action with respect to claims 18, 19, 24 and 25. By way of this amendment and reply, as suggested by the Examiner, claims 18 and 24 have been rewritten to place those claims in independent form to include the features of their respective base claims and any intervening claims. Therefore, claims 18, 19 (which depends from claim 18), 24 and 25 (which depends from claim 24) are believed to be in allowable form. Further, claims 15-17 have been amended to depend from allowable claim 18, and claims 21-23 have been amended to depend from allowable claim 24. Accordingly, claims 15-17 and 21-23 are patentable for at least that reason, as well as for additional patentable features when those claims are considered as a whole.

In the Office Action, the specification was objected to for minor informalities. By way of this amendment and reply, the specification has been amended to correct these informalities.

Also, Figure 3 was objected to by in the Office Action for having a minor error. Figure 3 has been amended to correct the error. No new matter has been added.

In the Office Action, claims 1-12, 14-17 and 26-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,672,432 to Sakurada et al. (hereinafter "Sakurada"). Further, claims 1, 2, 3, 7, 9, 11 and 27-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,334,665 to Yoshida (hereinafter "Yoshida"). Finally, claims 13 and 20-23 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sakurada in view of U.S. Patent 6,273,550 to Brown (hereinafter "Brown"). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections for the following reasons.

Applicant has amended claim 1 to incorporate the limitation recited in original claim 13. Thus, amended claim 1 recites a multiple ink jet printing system "wherein a combination of light dye ink and dark dye ink is used during low speed printing and only dark dye ink is used during high speed printing." As acknowledged by the Office Action, Sakurada does not teach this limitation. Similarly, Yoshida fails to teach or suggest this feature of amended claim 1. The Office Action interprets Brown as teaching "that a combination of light dye ink and dark dye ink is used during low speed printing and only dark dye ink is used during high speed printing." Applicant disagrees with the Examiner's interpretation of Brown.

Applicant notes that Brown is directed at solving the problem of chromatic variation due to variation in the order of ink overlaying in bidirectional printing mode. For example, variations in the darkness can result when, in one direction, black is laid first and then followed by cyan, magenta and yellow, while in the second direction, the order is reversed to be yellow, magenta, cyan and black. Brown illustrates the differences in darkness in Figure 10A (reference numeral 110a) and Figure 10B (reference numeral 110b). To solve this problem, Brown teaches providing an inkjet head with nozzles ordered as follows: black (K1), yellow (Y2), cyan (C3), magenta (M4), yellow (Y5), and black (K6). When printing in one direction, the order of overlaying is K1, C3, M4, Y5, while in the opposite direction, the order is K6, M4, C3, Y2. Thus, in each direction black is laid first and yellow is laid last.

The passage of Brown cited by the Office Action, col. 6, lines 52-60, merely refers to using both black nozzles, K1 and K6, to double the print speed during monochrome printing. Nowhere does Brown teach or suggest using "a combination of light dye ink and dark dye ink ... during low speed printing and only dark dye ink ... during high speed printing."

Accordingly, amended claim 1 is patentable. Claims 2-12 depend, either directly or indirectly, from allowable claim 1 and are, therefore, patentable for at least that reason, as well as for additional patentable features when those claims are considered as a whole.

Independent claims 26 and 27 have been amended to include the feature recited in allowable claims 18 and 24. Thus, claims 26 and 27 each recite a printing system "wherein the ink used during high-speed printing is stored in the supplies coupled to the dark dye nozzles." As acknowledged in the Office Action, the prior art did not cite this feature. Accordingly, independent claims 26 and 27 are patentable. Claims 28-33 depend, either

directly or indirectly, from allowable claim 27 and are, therefore, patentable for at least that reason, as well as for additional patentable features when those claims are considered as a whole.

New claim 34 depends from allowable claim 26 and is, therefore, patentable for at least that reason. Similarly, new claim 35 depends from allowable claim 27 and is, therefore, patentable for at least that reason.

New claims 36-38 recite additional aspects of the invention. These claims are believed to be patentable for reasons similar to those recited above with reference to amended claim 1.

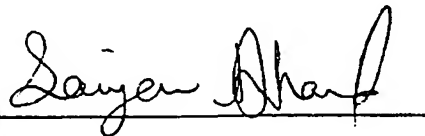
Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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